

FULLER'S RIGADE

A Band of Buckeye Boys Who Rendered Famous Service.

By CHAS. I. ADKINS, Co. K, 27th Ohio.

CHAPTER VI.

FROM KANSAS CITY TO SPRINGFIELD, MO.

The next morning, Sunday, Sept. 22, we departed, stacked arms and for some time remained near the landing. There being no fences or other camp fire material in view, we had a camp breakfast, without warm blankets.

Crackers brought from somewhere in barrels were found to be of a new variety, in our experience. They were evidently some that had been overlooked for years or refused on account of their age by the rebels when they plundered the Kansas City Commissary.

They were composed of both flour and flesh, thoroughly mixed. The flesh was crawling in cavities. The boys called the crawling bits of flesh maggots. Stubby roared his crackers and Tall Man said: "You are going to have a vermicelli barbecue, I perceive!"

"Yep, I haint got heart enough to eat the little cusses alive, like some of the fellows," Stubby responded as he wiped the ashes off his cracker on the sleeve of his trousers.

It was nearly noon when we turned our backs on the old boat. We marched south, then fled west. Having left the boat and the river, we were now in the arms of a high hill, where we remained until the next day, when we were quartered in vacant dwellings and business buildings in the town. Co. K had good quarters in a vacant store room on the main thoroughfare.

THE REGIMENT IN BUSINESS.

One of the abandoned business places was a printing office, which was pressed into service and filled with a corps of journalists, including editors, correspondents, compositors and devils all secured from the ranks. A newly and thoroughly independent newspaper was issued. The ferry to the north side having been stopped, we had no difficulty in getting efficient men from the ranks, and the ferry was put into operation at once.

TO AN ARCADE.

On Saturday, Oct. 5, our company was ordered four miles south to West Post. We took quarters in a brick house, looking out on a high hill, where we remained until the next day, when we were quartered in vacant dwellings and business buildings in the town. Co. K had good quarters in a vacant store room on the main thoroughfare.

Our sleep was peaceful and restful that night, and too soon broken the next morning by the crowing of the Shanghai Impersonator who came to the town by his realistic and penetrating crows.

After breakfast the good Corporal and his religious associates asked permission to attend religious services at the town church, and clearly stated that the company attend in a body. When the well rung the company, looking surprisingly clean and neat, fell in, fully armed and equipped—for there was no telling when or how strong the rebels might swoop into town. We marched to church and found ourselves made welcome.

PEDICULUS VESTIMENTI.

The Tall Man, while cleaning his clothing was horrified to find living evidence of living things, and evidence that more were incubating. He was the first to report the discovery of the vermin. Stubby, who had been drawn the greater part of the company would have burned what they had. We had, however, a preference for soldiers who were clean, but that mistake was corrected when Co. K discovered that they had no respect for person on that account. They infested the daintiest, cleanest and most fastidious.

Our stay at Westpost was 12 days. While there our duty was light, our rations were good, the citizens were kind and benevolent. The weather was fine, and grew wild in abundance. Taking all in all, Co. K can look back with happy recollections to that little loyal town in Jackson County, Mo.

HUNT THE ENEMY.

On the afternoon of Oct. 16 some men who had been in hospital rejoined the company, and the company took its place in line, and marched southward. Ohio regiments reached Westpost, from which we marched about one mile and went into camp.

Our strength had been considerably increased by the return of six companies of the 29th Ohio and the addition of four pieces of artillery and several companies of cavalry. We had been supplied with fresh rations, and the forces were in fairly good tents, and the forces were moving looked very much more like an army than before.

We remained in this camp until the morning of the 18th. The camp was made exceedingly unpleasant by heavy rain.

We marched on the morning of Oct. 18, moving in an easterly direction. Our march was slow, and it was necessary that the cavalry should reconnoiter both front and flanks. We reached Little Blue River after a march of 12 miles, not having found the enemy.

The next morning we moved on for a mile or two, when a halt was ordered and preparation made for action. Guns were loaded, Co. A and B were sent to the front, and the army took position, and unlimbered. After an hour's delay the skirmishers returned, batteries limbered, and we resumed our march. The enemy was mounted, and the forces were in fairly good tents, and the forces were moving looked very much more like an army than before.

FORBIDDEN FRUIT.

About two hours before sundown we went into camp near Pleasant Hill. During the day we had passed a great many large orchards, whose trees were bending low with ripe fruit. The General ordered that no fruit be plucked from the trees or gathered from the ground—not an apple must a thirsty soldier touch! Nevertheless, when we went into camp there was a lack of fruit for supper. Knapsacks, haversacks, blouses, shirts above the belt, pockets, even horns carried for the musicians, yielded stores of apples!

DON'T KNOW THEIR OWN COUNTRY.

Discussion arose as to what County we were in, and Tall Man asked a citizen who sat on his little fence reviewing us, but to our amazement the citizen said that he didn't know: "Don't justilly remember, 'Gosh, 'Ony bin livin' 'bout a year!" he said. After that we asked every citizen we met, and not one of them was able to give us the information.

While it is true there were some very pleasant and attractive homes to be seen, with good and commodious improvements, as a general thing the southern Missouri homes bore marked evidence of shiftless management.

FRUITFUL BRASS BAND.

At the margin of a small town the General and his staff halted the band and ordered the command to close up, for appearance in the streets. The great having closed on the front, the General ordered the band to play and the column to move. That was embarrassing, for the musicians whose horns were full of apples harvested in disobedience to orders of Gen. Sturgis then and there present, panicked in horror: There was no escape, and the horns were emptied. There were some

busheles of the fruit. The General promised with lavish squalor of reckless adjectives to attend to the matter at his leisure, ordered a guard placed over the apples to prevent men in the ranks from getting any; then he rode away.

Co. K was called upon for the apple guard, and he stood beside them, crowding loudly and clearly, and again as rambos. When K mess wagon came up the guard halted it, and had the apples loaded on the wagon. Then he returned to his place in ranks. Then he returned

For some reason not mentioned in army

ly forgot that he had been excused from duty, buckled on his cartridge box, took his place in ranks and went out on picket duty with the rest of the company!

ON VIDEOT DUTY: IN DANGER.

Picket headquarters or reserve was about a mile and a half south of camp, and there the details were made for the several posts, some half a mile in advance, some to the right, some to the left.

I went, under the good Corporal, with others, to the most advanced post and found myself the most advanced videt of the post, fully a quarter of a mile in advance of the picket post.

The position of that outpost was about three miles distant from the center of a picket line fully 18 miles in length, circling the town of Springfield, Mo. The number of men required to do picket duty each day would not fall short of 2,000 soldiers.

That morning, as on other similar occasions when there was a reasonable possibility of attack during our period of guard duty, we were ordered to go fully equipped, ready to move at any time, in any direction, on a moment's warning.

When I returned to the squad reserve, after two hours on videt post, I found the Acting Sergeant, the good Corporal, engaged in giving the perishable contents of his knapsack a much-needed sunbath.



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WADING IN COLD WATERS.

The next morning we again started early, moved southward, and at the end of a march of 18 miles reached Henry County. The following day we marched 18 miles due east. On the 23d we again moved south toward Henry County. On reaching the Grand River it was found that the enemy had destroyed the bridge. Gen. Sturgis, not being empowered to separate the waters as was Moses of old, we were ordered to strip and take a chilly wade through the stream, which was about waist-deep. It was the first marine service of the kind that we had been called on to perform, and the strip-off act occasioned no little embarrassment. Indeed, some of their modesty, for they were without removing any of their garments, and then marched steadily on, presenting an appearance very much like that of a half-drowned rat.

The river, at the end of 21 miles' tramp, on the left bank of the Osage River, opposite the once-beautiful little town of Osceola. We had reached that point by a zigzag march from Kansas City, covering 112 miles. Osceola is the County seat of St. Clair.

The greater part of the next day was spent in crossing the stream, which was about waist-deep. It was the first marine service of the kind that we had been called on to perform, and the strip-off act occasioned no little embarrassment. Indeed, some of their modesty, for they were without removing any of their garments, and then marched steadily on, presenting an appearance very much like that of a half-drowned rat.

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UP WITH THE FLAG.

The next morning, Oct. 31, we marched to Greenfield, about a mile, where we raised the Stars and stripes on a flag-staff from which the Confederate colors had been taken down the day before. We then returned, and the regiment had the regular monthly muster after which we prepared for instant march. This day-raising according to our several ideas and available means.

PLANS GANG AGLEY.

Everything seemed to indicate that we might stay for several days at Greenfield, but about 5 o'clock orders came to prepare for instant march. This unexpected move occasioned great commotion, but we had learned to do things in a hurry, and we were very soon in line and ready to march.

It was about noon when a halt was ordered, arms were stacked, rails carried, fires built, and in time camp-kettle refreshments served. After a rest of two hours we moved again, and about 6 p. m. we went into camp near Springfield, the little seat of Green County, Mo.

CHAPTER VII.

FROM SPRINGFIELD TO SEDALIA. The morning of Nov. 2, frosty and crisp, gave promise of a bright and pleasant day, and we thought that because of our severe marches just completed we would be accorded the command to close up, for appearance in the streets. The great having closed on the front, the General ordered the band to play and the column to move. That was embarrassing, for the musicians whose horns were full of apples harvested in disobedience to orders of Gen. Sturgis then and there present, panicked in horror: There was no escape, and the horns were emptied. There were some



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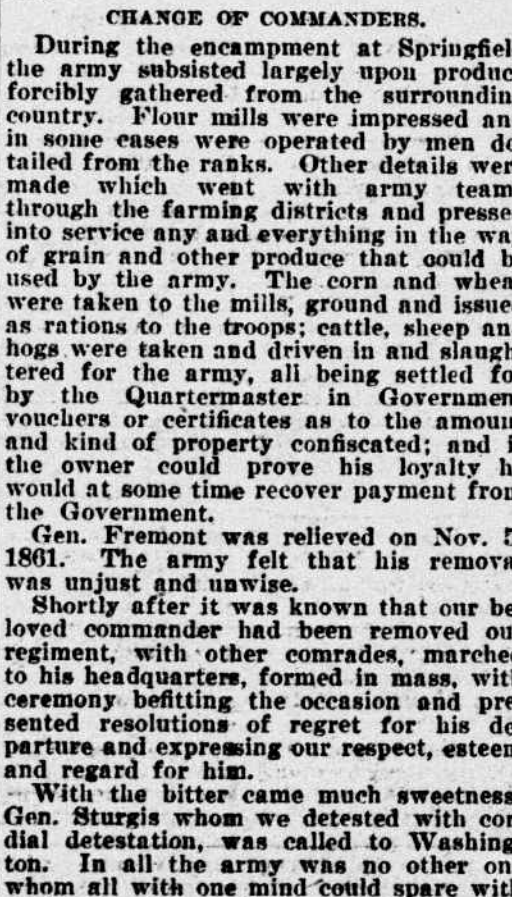
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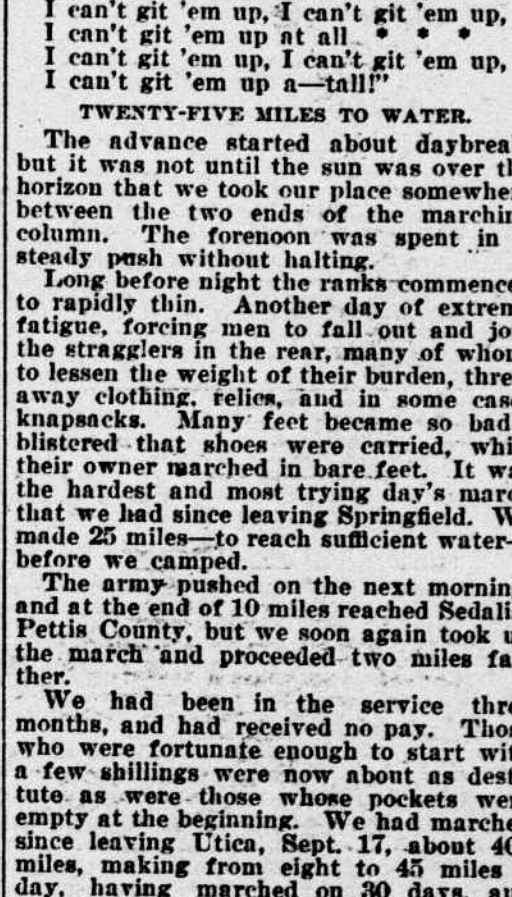
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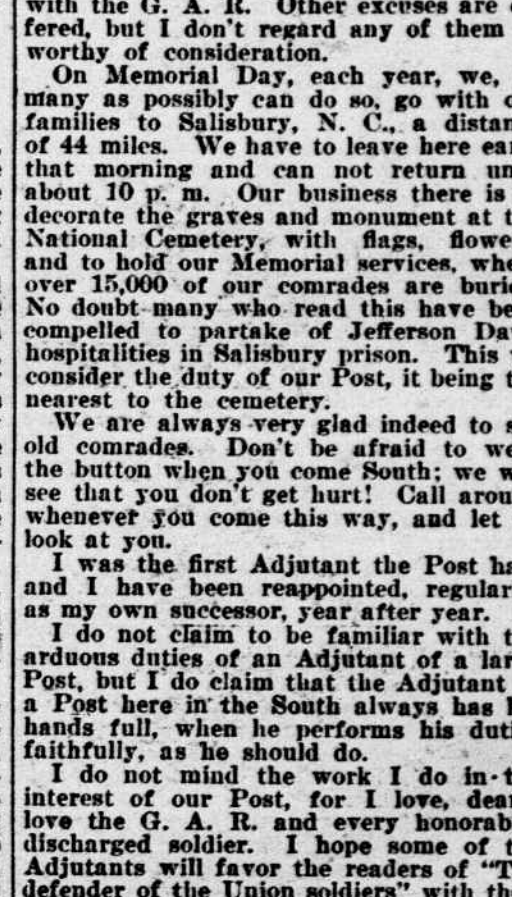
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